

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 AGR-05 /056 W

----- 107423

R 241727Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2428

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC SUSPENSION OF TARIFFS ON FRESH VEGETABLES

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 8125, (B) THE HAGUE 4572

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMISSION HAS SENT TO THE COUNCIL A PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND DUTIES ON CAULIFLOWER, RED AND WHITE CABBAGE, PEAS, CARROTS AND CELERY. COUNCIL APPROVAL, VIA THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TOMORROW. END SUMMARY.

2. AS INDICATED IN REF. B, FOLLOWING AN AUGUST 23 MEETING OF THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMISSION HAS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL A PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND DUTIES ON THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:

| PRODUCTS              | TARIFF RATES (PERCENT)                               |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| CAULIFLOWER           | 17 (MINIMUM 2 U.A./PER 100 KILO NET)                 |
| RED AND WHITE CABBAGE | 15 (MINIMUM 0.5 U.A. PER 100 KILO NET)               |
| PEAS                  | 17, JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 31<br>10, SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31 |
| CARROTS               | 17                                                   |
| CELERY                | 13                                                   |

THESE SUSPENSIONS APPLY ONLY TO FRESH AND CHILLED PRODUCTS,

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NOT, REPAT NOT, TO FROZEN.

3. THE WRITTEN, OR ACCELERATED, PROCEDURE WILL BE USED BY THE COUNCIL. THUS, THE MEMBER STATES ARE TO RESPOND TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL BY 1800 HOURS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25. SINCE THE PROPOSAL HAS ALREADY CLEARED THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE, NO PROBLEM IS ANTICIPATED IN OBTAINING COUNCIL APPROVAL. THE REGULATION IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; IT WILL GO INTO EFFECT 3 DAYS AFTER ITS PUBLICATION. THE SUSPENSION WILL APPLY UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

4. THE COMMISSION HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THAT DUTIES BE SUSPENDED ON ONIONS AND STRING BEANS ALSO. HOWEVER, THE ITALIANS AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE FRENCH BLOCKED THE INCLUSION OF THESE PRODUCTS IN THE PROPOSAL. THE DUTCH PERMDEL TELLS US THAT SUSPENSION OF DUTIES ON THESE PRODUCTS, AND POSSIBLY OTHER PRODUCTS, WILL AGAIN BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 7. WE ASKED HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXTENSION OF THE DUTY SUSPENSIONS TO INCLUDE FROZEN AND PROCESSED VEGETABLES. HE DID NOT FEEL THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH ACTION WERE VERY GOOD AT THIS TIME. THE COMMUNITY IS AFRAID THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD PERMIT A BUILD UP OF STOCKS DURING THE PERIOD OF SUSPENSION. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ACTION IF THE DROUGHT PERSISTS AND IF PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE.

5. THE DUTCH PERMDEL SAID THAT IN OPPOSING TARIFF REDUCTIONS FOR ONIONS AND STRING BEANS, THE ITALIANS INDICATED THAT THEY STILL HAD SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIES OF THESE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE. THUS, THEY WERE UNWILLING TO EXPOSE THEIR SUPPLIERS TO THIRD COUNTRY COMPETITION. THE PERMDEL WAS, HOWEVER, VERY SKEPTICAL OF THE ITALIAN CLAIM. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CUSTOMS DUTIES, TARIFF LIBERALIZATION, VEGETABLES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ECBRU08251  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760323-0939  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760827/aaaaawhw.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 EC BRUSSELS 8125, 76 THE HAGUE 4572  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EC SUSPENSION OF TARIFFS ON FRESH VEGETABLES  
**TAGS:** EAGR, EPAP, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006